

Wm Lloyd Garrison
Boston, Feb. 21, 1837.

PHELPS
MSS.

Dear bro. Phelps:

In reply to yours of the 18th ~~and~~ inst. allow me to say

1. That your withdrawal from the anti-slavery cause, at the present time, and under present circumstances, (if at any time prior to the abolition of slavery,) is manifestly "out of the question." Your services cannot be spared without any great injury to the good cause. The responsibilities upon the tired friends of emancipation are not diminished, nor is the pressure upon them alleviated, by the many conversions that are taking place in favor of our views. If more hands are found to work the abolition ship than heretofore, still we cannot spare a single pilot. If our army be enlarged, the recruits are raw, and require much drilling: the leaders to the onset must remain in the forefront of the battle. Hence, you must continue at your post.

2. While it is desirable that you should be able to act in ecclesiastical bodies officially, it is more important that you should be mainly consecrated to the anti-slavery cause.

3. I do not wonder that you are "tired out with moving about from pillar to post." But our desire is, in Boston, not to keep you rambling, but to allow you to remain as a fixture — at least, you can do pretty much as you please in regard to lecturing, travelling, &c. The most of your time will be wanted in the city.

4. Your strong reason for turning yourself into a country person is poverty — not poverty, but debt. But we hope to put that reason aside entirely — i. e. by making you as good an offer, in a pecuniary point of view, as you can obtain in any other situation. Although we have not had a Board meeting since your letter was received, I know that the Board will be perfectly willing for you to stipulate for yourself as to terms. Or if you decline doing so, and prefer that they should name your salary, they will undoubtedly put it at \$1500, or even higher if you wish.

In addition to this, you will be allowed your Sabbaths gratis — so that you can probably add \$500 to the \$1500 by preaching, making \$2000 as the sum total. I have just been conversing with our mutual friend John E. Fuller. He informs me that Rev. Mr. Fitch will undoubtedly leave the Free Church very soon, as he wants a higher salary than they can really afford to give him. Bro. F. says that Dea. Gulliver talks of inviting you to take Mr. Fitch's place: he (Bro. F.) thinks the following arrangement can be made, and to the perfect satisfaction of the church and congregation, viz. You can accept the agency of our Society, and yet supply the pulpit, or agree to see it supplied, for the Free Church, on the Sabbath, and thus receive the customary compensation. This, I think, will be agreeable to you.

I deeply regret that the health of ~~your~~ dear wife is generally so delicate, as to require her to absent herself so large a portion of the year from the city. As a loving husband, I can appreciate how great a sacrifice to you both it is to be separated in this manner. On this point, I dare not urge you coming, with that freedom which I can on other points.

From this invitation to come to Boston, you must not suppose that we think you are not admirably calculated to occupy the editorship of the Emancipator. Far otherwise. We shall regret, on many accounts, your resignation of that post, (unless you come to Boston,) especially if bro. Goodell does not supply your place. I hope he will be induced to leave Utica.

All the Parkers reciprocate your kind expressions. Miss Lucy will endeavor to find you convenient accommodations in her house, whether you come sooner or later — whether you require one or two rooms — but, of course, she cannot pledge to this effect with positive certainty upon an uncertainty.

Our Society will be disposed to wait for you until after the May anniversary, provided you will speedily engage to accept of its offer. I trust you will see your way clear to come, as a matter of duty and happiness. May ^{you} be guided by infinite wisdom to a right decision.

What a dreadful reproach has been brought upon the cause of Christ by the sinful conduct of Ray Potter, that "brother beloved," with whom we have taken sweet counsel together, and whom we have regarded as among the best of mankind. The knowledge of it almost crushes the life out of my heart — I am overwhelmed with sorrow and consternation. How vile hell rejoice, and heaven mourn!

You and our friends in New-York will rejoice to learn, that, on Thursday afternoon next, we abolitionists are to have a hearing before a legislative committee in the Hall of the House of Representatives, to show cause why the Legislature should protest against the resolution of Congress, laying our petitions upon the table unread and unrefused — and why the Legislature should call for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. The State House will undoubtedly be crowded. You see we keep agitating in this quarter. Our Society has engaged Geo. S. Hillard, as a lawyer, to speak on the occasion, and Mr. Stanton will sustain ^{him} Mr. Loring and Mr. Sewall, as well as myself, are too busy to make any preparation, and cannot speak without it. We shall probably be permitted to have two or three hearings before the committee — but shall not accept the liberty, unless we can get suitable persons to speak. — We had serious thoughts of sending Whittier or Stanton post haste to New-York for Mr. Weld — it is a glorious opportunity for him, if his health will permit, ~~to~~ ^{him} to do good on an immense scale. Send him instanten, we beseech you, even if you charge us a thousand dollars for his coming. Tell dear Weld he cannot even faintly imagine the state of things with us, and what a crisis this is with our cause in this Commonwealth. The Legislature will remain in session till the 1st of April. If Mr. Weld will come, he ~~can~~ ^{will} gain access, directly and indirectly, to six hundred representatives, who are now in the most favorable state of mind to hear him. The only person we can rely upon is Mr. Stanton, but he is almost broken down with his unceasing labors, and says we must have Mr. Weld at all hazards. Will all our friends speak through me to dear Weld with the voice of agonizing entreaty? Will he not come under these circumstances? Let me hear from you again. My regards to your lady and all the friends. Even yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Mr. Garrison's Letter
No (2)



Single. — Paid.

Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Editor of the Emancipator,
New-York City.

(Private.)